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A small but enduring piece of Valley history has reached the century mark.

Scottsdale's Little Red Schoolhouse was the center of attention at a big birthday celebration on Friday, with state and local dignitaries honoring its 100-year history in the city.

While appearing quaint now, the school's \$5,000 worth of bricks helped distinguish the structure, as did its size, from the typical board-and-batten material used at the time.

The building was known as "the big red schoolhouse" in the early days, and the design showed the community's forward thinking even then, Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane said.

The school "symbolized confidence in the sustainability of Scottsdale," Lane said in a proclamation, declaring Friday the day of the Little Red Schoolhouse as well as Winfield Scott Day.

The school's rededication shared the spotlight with the 173rd birthday commemoration of Scottsdale's founder and namesake, Winfield Scott.

The schoolhouse originally was dedicated on Scott's birthday in 1910 and he was present for the event.

It was one of Scott's last public acts. He died later that year.

The schoolhouse is on the Scottsdale Mall and has been the home of the Scottsdale Historical Society since 1991.

After it stopped being a school in the 1950s, it became a city hall, a library and a courthouse. The Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and the Scottsdale Historical Society prevented the city from demolishing the building in 1969.

More than 100 people turned out at Friday's celebration, treated to music provided by the Territorial Brass and "serendipitous nuggets" by state historian Marshall Trimble, which kept the mood light.

Trimble provided laughs and gave context to the longevity of the landmark by offering other bits of history that took place around the time the school opened:

* In 1908, the price of a glass of beer in Phoenix was raised to 10 cents.

* In 1910, Arizona's population was 24,354. This was a 66 percent gain from the 1900 census.

* In 1909, all murder charges were dropped against Geronimo. He had died a year earlier.

* In 1911, former President Teddy Roosevelt had dedicated a new dam on the Salt River and declared that by 2012, as many as 75,000 people would be living in the Salt River Valley.

In a prepared statement, Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., called the schoolhouse a prominent pillar and "important historic marker" that needs to stand another 100 years.

Gov. Jan Brewer sent a representative to read a letter and the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution, Winfield Scott Chapter, presented the historical society with a plaque about the schoolhouse.